

July 13, 2005

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 003  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 1476 HD1 SD1 CD1

On July 12, 2005, House Bill No. 1476, entitled "Relating to North Kohala" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

This bill directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to determine whether 162 acres, soon to be purchased by Kamehameha Schools, will adequately fulfill the buffer and public access requirements to protect a cluster of historical sites in North Kohala. Should this acreage not be sufficient, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is directed to renew its efforts to acquire an additional 88 acres.

The Administration recognizes the importance of open space buffers. However, the availability of suitable State lands for an exchange in North Kohala is limited. Previous land exchange efforts have been hampered by the fact that State lands in this region are ceded lands and/or have cultural and natural elements that restrict the desirability and appropriateness of exchanging them with a private landowner.

The responsibility to protect public monuments is in State statute and the Department of Land and Natural Resources has a process of formalizing an arrangement for buffer lands for sites such as Mo'okini Heiau.

Therefore, I allowed House Bill No. 1476 HD1 SD1 CD1 to become law as Act 219 effective July 12, 2005 without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE